

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 02809 181802Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /020 W

-----190207Z 125942 /66

R 181424Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0055
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 2809

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: AMERICAN COMPUTER PURCHASES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 083046, (B) 76 STATE 178852

1. ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE COMPUTER SYSTEM CALLED "DIGICOM" SUPPLIED BY E-SYSTEMS OF ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, WHICH IS USED TO KEEP NATIONAL IDENTITY RECORDS, CONTROL MOVEMENTS OF PATROL CARS, AND RANGE OF OTHER POLICE SERVICES. WE WOULD HAVE TO ASK THEM SPECIFICALLY IF THEY KEEP RECORDS ON TERRORISTS, SUBVERSIVES OR DISSIDENTS IN COMPUTER, BUT WE BELIEVE IT REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT AT MINIMUM THE COMPUTERS PROCESS RECORDS OF WANTED PERSONS WHETHER CRIMINAL OR TERRORIST.

2. ARGENTINE MILITARY HAVE SOME COMPUTER CAPABILITIES, IN LOGISTICS, ETC., AND INTEND TO DEVELOP MORE, BUT WE CANNOT SAY WHETHER OR NOT SECURITY INFORMATION SUCH AS RECORDS ON DISSIDENTS IS BEING PROCESSED IN COMPUTERS.

3. AMERICAN COMPUTERS DOMINATE MARKET IN ARGENTINA, AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT ANY COMPUTERS BEING USED FOR SECURITY PURPOSES ARE AMERICAN MADE.

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4. REFERENCE TO EXCHANGES OF SECURITY INFORMATION BETWEEN SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES APPARENTLY IS CONNECTED TO COOPERATION IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE AREA WHICH WE KNOW IS IN EXISTENCE BETWEEN REGIONAL SECURITY FORCES. REFTEL B NOTED USE OF COMPUTERS IN PARA 10(A). LEGAL ATTACHE HERE IS AWARE THAT POLICE IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE (INTERNATIONAL POLICE) HAVE COMPUTERS, BUT HAS NOT

SEEN COMPUTERS IN THE POLICE FORCES OF URUGUAY OR PARAGUAY. HE DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY COMPUTER-TO-COMPUTER LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES, BUT OF COURSE MATERIAL STORED IN AN ARGENTINE COMPUTER CAN BE COMPILED AND SENT TO CHILE FOR INSERTION IN ANOTHER COMPUTER, PROVIDING SOFTWARE IS COMPATIBLE.

5. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ARGENTINE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN COMPUTERS FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF PROCESSING INFORMATION ON SUSPECTED DISSIDENTS,"BUT COMPUTERS CAN DO MANY THINGS AND IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT GOA IS USING ITS COMPUTERS FOR SUCH PURPOSES IN ADDITION TO KEEPING TRACK OF NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION RECORDS AND AIR FORCE SPARE PARTS.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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